

Sphaeropteris celebica

Family:

Cyatheaceae

Botanical name

Sphaeropteris celebica (Blume) R.M.Tryon

Link to Australian Plant Name Index for publication details and synonyms:

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/119226>

Description

Rhizome to 6 m tall, to 30 cm diam. Stipe to 1 m long, strongly spiny at base, blackish purple; spines 3–6 mm long, black, shiny; basal scales to 40 mm long, 1 mm wide, pale brown to whitish; short marginal setae very oblique; rest of stipe and rachises covered with minute, setiferous or fringed, interlacing scales. Lamina to 3 m long; pinnae to 70 cm long; pinnules to 13 cm long and 2 cm wide, with most lobes separately attached to costae, and lower ones as distinct tertiary leaflets which may be stalked; tertiary pinnules with cordate base and serrate margins; scales near base of costae elongate, shorter distally, all setiferous; similar scales on costule base; costules and veins bearing small, pale scales with slender, marginal hairs interlacing over the entire surface. Sori submedial (slightly nearer costule than margin) covered with overlapping fringed usually persistent, scales; paraphyses numerous, shorter than the sporangia.

Distribution

NE QLD between Black Mountain and Paluma. Also in New Guinea and the Moluccas.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial in montane rainforest, usually on steep banks.

Natural history

This uncommon tree-fern is readily identified by the presence of spines on the stipe bases and woolly indument on the rhizome between the stipes.

Similar species

Distinguishable from *Sphaeropteris australis* by mature sori being covered by scales (cf. scales deciduous, mature sori naked in *S. australis*).

Citation of Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes

Field AR, Quinn CJ, Zich FA (2022) Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes. apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/intro/index.htm (accessed online INSERT DATE).

Field AR, Quinn CJ, Zich FA (2022) '*Platynerium superbum*', in Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes. apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/entities/platynerium_superbum.htm (accessed online INSERT DATE).



Close up of frond showing sori.

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Close up of frond showing sori.

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Close up of frond showing sori.

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Frond. © G. Sankowsky



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Stipe showing spines. © A.R. Field



Frond underside. © A.R. Field



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